

Message Text

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SUBJ BRITISH COLUMBIA LABOR LEGISLATION

REF: VANCOUVER 896

1. LARGEST NEWSPAPER IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, VANCOUVER SUN, HAS BEEN ALMOST HYSTERICALLY CRITICAL OF NDP LEADER DAVID BARRETT FOR YEARS, INCLUDING PERIOD BEFORE HE FORMED GOVERNMENT OF B.C. THIS MAKES IT PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY THAT ON OCT 8 THIS NEWSPAPER FEATURED COLUMN BY SENIOR EDITOR FOTHERINGHAM DESCRIBING PREMIER BARRETTSS PROPOSAL TO FORCE STRIKING LABOR UNIONS BACK TO WORK AS "BRILLIANT STROKE" WHICH "SANDBAGGED ...CHINESE SMORGASBORD PARTY OTHERWISE KNOWN AS SOCREDS." EDITOR CONTINUED TO STATE THAT BARRETT "INSTANTLY GOING FROM FLOUNDERING IMAGE TO POSTURE OF DECISIVENESS CAPTURES PUBLIC MOOD AT TIME WHEN OTTAWA IS ALL AT SEA."

2. ANOTHER COLUMNIST IN SAME ISSUE VANCOUVER SUN CALLED BARRETT MOVE "AN IMPORTANT STEP IN GENERAL DIRECTION OF SANITY" AND NOTED THAT IT HAS BEEN TOO EASILY ASSUMED THAT ANY "SOCIALIST" GOVERNMENT HAS "SOME SORT OF SACRED DUTY BACK UNIONS TO THE HILT UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES AND AT ANY COST."

3. ANOTHER POPULAR COLUMNIST WHOSE PROSE IS EVIDENTLY
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AFFECTED BY HIS EARLY DAYS AS FLACK FOR LOCAL NIGHTCLUBS

DESCRIBED BARRETT'S "PERFORMANCE AT LEGISLATURE AS BOFFO SMASH."

4. MARJORIE NICHOLS, VANCOUVER SUN CORRESPONDENT IN OTTAWA, REPORTED "FROM PERSPECTIVE THIS POINT IN ENEMY TERRITORY THERE IS ONLY ONE WORD THAT DESCRIBES BARRETT'S BILL-- BRILLIANT." (NICHOLS, EMBASSY MAY RECALL, HAD DEVELOPED SUCH PERSONAL HOSTILITY TO PREMIER BARRETT DURING HER STINT AS "POLITICAL" REPORTER IN VICTORIA THAT PREMIER SPOKE TO HER ONLY IN FOUR-LETTER WORDS.) SHE ADDED THAT BARRETT HAS "PRESENTED (CANADIAN) GOVERNMENT CHALLENGE FROM WHICH IT CANNOT RETREAT WITH HONOR . . . HE HAS INDULGED IN SOMETHING THAT OTTAWA CLASSIFIES AS HERETICAL-GUTSY LEADER." NICHOLS

ALSO SUGGESTS THAT BARRETT TIMED HIS MOVE TO "UNDERCUT TRUDEAU" AT FORTHCOMING PREMIERS' CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA WHERE BARRETT "WILL ARRIVE OUTFITTED IN COSTUME OF CONFEDERATION'S TOUGH GUY NOT RPT NOT WEAK-KNEED SOCIALIST WHO QUIVERS UNDER CHALLENGE OF ORGANIZED LABOR. . . DAVE BARRETT HAS EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATED TRUDEAU'S OPTION TO TALK TOUGH AND DO NOTHING." STUTESMAN

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